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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE FIRST RESPONDERS OF THE WAI'ANAE  
COAST FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY DURING  
THE SUMMER OF 2018 BRUSH FIRES.

1 WHEREAS, it is important to honor pivotal people and  
2 organizations based along the Wai'anae Coast that play a key role  
3 in protecting our homes, community, and overall health; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, on the morning of August 4, 2018, wild brushfires  
6 burned on the Wai'anae Coast leading to wildfires throughout  
7 Wai'anae Valley and Mākaha Valley, with intense flames close  
8 enough to threaten homes, schools, farms, and businesses, at  
9 times getting as close as 10 to 15 feet; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, strong winds, dry brush, choking smoke, and  
12 sweltering heat from the sun contributed to fires at different  
13 locations ravaging nearly 9,000 acres of land; and  
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15 WHEREAS, these difficult conditions for first responders  
16 required a number of organizations to work together, selflessly  
17 dedicated to ensuring the safety of the public in what has been  
18 speculated to be one of the worst summer brushfires in state  
19 history; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT led the fight by  
22 dispatching over 100 firefighters, 27 engines, five aerials, six  
23 tankers, and one HAZMAT truck to combat fires at multiple sites  
24 across the Wai'anae Coast, ensuring the safety of homes and  
25 businesses; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, FEDERAL FIRE HAWAII contributed to the  
28 firefighting efforts by dispatching an additional 16 units with  
29 38 firefighters to battle the fire in Wai'anae Valley, where the  
30 fire posed one of the largest threats to the community; and



1 WHEREAS, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES' DIVISION  
2 OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE provided two contracted helicopters and  
3 over 25 personnel to help suppress the wild brushfire before it  
4 reached valuable watersheds and forest reserves; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the HAWAI'I ARMY NATIONAL GUARD also contributed to  
7 the fight by providing two Blackhawk helicopters for additional  
8 support; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT'S dedicated officers  
11 established order amidst the chaos created by the wildfire by  
12 ensuring the safety of the public through their assistance in  
13 evacuations, detours, and road closures; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the WAI'ANAE COAST DISASTER READINESS TEAM and  
16 their volunteers helped to establish vital lines of  
17 communication between government officials, first responders,  
18 and community organizations, helping to relay critical  
19 information and providing manpower to aid in the staffing of the  
20 emergency shelters for Wai'anae residents; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, KA'ALA FARMS, located in the heart of Wai'anae  
23 Valley and despite being caught in the middle of the wild  
24 brushfire, did their part and more to safely guide their large  
25 group of guests to safety, while strategically protecting the  
26 cultural treasures of Ka'ala; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the frequency and severity of wildfires along the  
29 Wai'anae Coast have increased over time and are projected to  
30 continue to increase; KA'ALA FARMS has taken on the  
31 responsibility to partner with community stakeholders in order  
32 to implement the WAI'ANAE KAI WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION  
33 PROJECT; and  
34


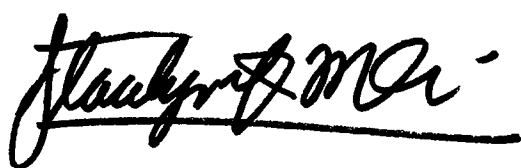
35 WHEREAS, the WAI'ANAE KAI WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION  
36 PROJECT seeks to prevent ignition fires in Wai'anae Valley by  
37 implementing best practices, increasing security, and improving  
38 the ability of firefighters to extinguish fires by increasing  
39 water availability for firefighting purposes; now, therefore,



# H.R. NO. 35

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of  
3 2019, that this body, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019, hereby  
4 recognizes and honors all of the first responders of the Wai'anae  
5 Coast and extends to them its best wishes in all future  
6 endeavors.  
7  
8  
9

OFFERED BY:

FEB 28 2019

